CLAIMS

1. A conjugate for use in a binding test, comprising

a carrier molecule which is associated with at least one analyte-specific binding partner, and additional binding sites for a specific binding partner X or Y.

2. A conjugate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier molecule is selected from the group consisting of dextran, cyclodextrin, dendrimers, antibodies which are covalently bonded together, albumin molecules which are covalently bonded together, enzymes which are covalently bonded together, and mixtures thereof.

3. A conjugate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additional binding sites are selected from the group consisting of biotin, digoxigenin, fluorescein, dinitrophenol and single-stranded nucleic acid chains.

4. A conjugate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier molecule is covalently bonded to at least one analyte-specific binding partner.

5. A conjugate as claimed in claim 1, which possesses at least 2 additional binding sites for a specific binding partner X or Y.

6. A conjugate as claimed in claim 1, which possesses more than 5 additional binding sites for a specific binding partner X or Y.

7. A conjugate as claimed in claim 1, which possesses more than 10 additional binding sites for a specific binding partner X or Y.

8. A conjugate as claimed in claim 1, which possesses more than 18

additional binding sites for a specific binding partner X or Y.

9. A conjugate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier molecule comprises antibodies which are covalently bonded together.

10. A conjugate as claimed in claim 10, wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of mouse and goat IgG antibodies.

11. A reagent comprising

a microparticle bonded to a specific binding partner X or Y, the specific binding partner X or Y being bonded to a conjugate including a carrier molecule which is associated with at least one analyte-specific binding partner, the conjugate possessing additional binding sites for the specific binding partner X or Y

12. The reagent as claimed in claim 11, wherein the microparticle comprises a latex particle.

13. The reagent as claimed in claim 12 which, wherein the microparticle is associated with substances selected from the group consisting of photosensitizers and chemiluminescent substances.

14. A method for quantitatively or qualitatively detecting an analyte in a sample, comprising

adding to the sample a signal-generating system and a conjugate, the conjugate including a carrier molecule which is associated with at least one analyte-specific binding partner, the conjugate possessing additional binding

sites for a specific binding partner X, the specific binding partner X being associated with a component of the signal-generating system and;

determining the presence or amount of the analyte based upon a measurement of a signal generated by the signal-generating system.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the conjugate is bonded to a microparticle by way of the specific binding partner X.

16. The method of 14, further comprising adding to the sample a conjugate having specific binding sites for the specific binding partner Y, which is associated with a component of the signal-generating system.

17. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the number of binding sites for the specific binding partner X is at least 2.

18. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the number of binding sites for the specific binding partner X is at least 5.

19. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the number of binding sites for the specific binding partner X is at least 10.

20. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the number of binding sites for the specific binding partner X is at least 15.

21. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the number of binding sites for the specific binding partner Y is at least 2.

22. The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the number of binding sites for the specific binding partner Y is at least 5.

23. The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the number of binding sites for the specific binding partner Y is at least 10.

24. The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the number of binding sites for the specific binding partner Y is at least 15.

25. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein X and Y are one and the same specific binding partner.

26. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein X and Y different specific binding partners.

27. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin, an anti-digoxigenin antibody, an anti-dinitrophenol antibody, a single-stranded nucleic acid chain, an anti-hapten antibody, an enzyme, an enzyme substrate and an antibody which is able to bind particular polypeptides, oligopeptides or enzymes specifically.

28. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin, an anti-digoxigenin antibody, an anti-dinitrophenol antibody, a single-stranded nucleic acid chain, an anti-hapten antibody, an enzyme, an enzyme substrate and an antibody which is able to bind particular polypeptides, oligopeptides or enzymes specifically.

29. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein components of the signal-generating system are brought, as a result of the binding of the analyte-specific binding partners, to a distance from each other which permits an interaction, in particular an energy transfer, between these components, and the magnitude of this interaction is measured.

30. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein components of the signal-generating system are brought, as a result of the binding of the analyte-specific binding partners, to a distance from each other which permits no interaction, or only very slight interaction, in particular no energy transfer or only very slight energy transfer, between these components, and the residual magnitude of this interaction is measured.

31. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the components of the signal-generating system are microparticles.

32. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the microparticles comprise latex particles.

33. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein components of the signal-generating system are microparticle-associated photosensitizers and microparticle-associated chemiluminescent substances.

34. The method as claimed in claim 14 performed as an immunoassay.

35. The method as claimed claim 14 performed as a homogeneous binding test.